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CURRENT INDUSTRIAL REPORTS

Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders

U.S. Department of Commerce
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

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All figures in text below are in seasonally adjusted current dollars.

New orders for manufactured products rose $4.7 billion or 4.0 percent in December to $120.8 billion the Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census reported today. Shipments of manufactured products rose $2.9 billion or 2.6 percent to $116.2 billion, while inventories remained virtually unchanged from November at $177.4 billion. Both the new orders and shipments increases are the largest recorded since March when new orders rose by 4.9 percent and shipments by 4.8 percent. New orders exceeded shipments by $4.6 billion, resulting in a 2.4 percent increase in the backlog of unfilled orders. This increase in the backlog of orders is the largest month-to-month increase recorded since the 2.9 percent increase in August 1974.

New orders for durable goods rose by $4.0 billion or 6.5 percent. Although many industries showed significant increases, about two-thirds of the increase was recorded in the capital goods industries. New orders in the defense industries rose 37 percent or $1.3 billion and new orders for nondefense capital goods rose 9.1 percent or $1.4 billion. A significant part of these increases in both defense and nondefense capital goods orders was due to increases in the aircraft and parts industries. In total, new orders in the aircraft and parts industries rose 68 percent or $2.2 billion. The only significant decline was recorded in the steel industry, where new orders fell 12 percent or $0.6 billion in December following a 15 percent or $0.6 billion increase in November.

Shipments of durable goods rose $2.5 billion or 4.2 percent to $61.6 billion. Shipments in nearly all industries showed increases, with major contributions to the overall increase being recorded in primary metals ($0.3 billion or 3.7 percent), nonelectrical machinery ($0.5 billion or 4.9 percent), and motor vehicles and parts ($0.4 billion or 4.8 percent).

Shipments of nondurable goods rose $0.4 billion or 0.8 percent. Shipments of food products rose $0.3 billion or 2.0 percent and shipments of paper and allied products rose $0.3 billion or 6.0 percent. Shipments of chemicals declined $0.3 billion or 3.0 percent.

The November to December change in the seasonally adjusted shipments estimate for the automotive assembly industry was computed using revised seasonal factors based on data through December 1977. This procedure provides the best estimate of month-to-month change although it introduces some noncomparability between the seasonally adjusted December 1977 data and the December 1976 estimates. Revised data for earlier months will be issued at a later date.

Based on this report, shipments of manufactured products during 1977 (without seasonal adjustment), rose 13 percent, or $148.7 billion, from $1178.0 billion in 1976 to $1326.7 billion in 1977. Shipments of durable goods industries during 1977 rose $87.8 billion or 15 percent, from $604.5 billion in 1976 to $692.3 billion in 1977; shipments of nondurable goods during 1977 rose $60.9 billion or 11 percent, from $573.5 billion in 1976 to $634.4 billion in 1977. New orders for durable goods during 1977 rose 17 percent, or $102.1 billion, from $608.2 billion in 1976 to $710.2 billion in 1977. While this percentage increase is smaller than the 1976 increase of 20 percent, it was significantly larger than the 1959-1976 average of 8 percent. The year-to-year increase was composed of increases in all industry groups, ranging from a 12 percent increase in fabricated metals to a 24 percent increase in transportation equipment. The annual figures for 1977 are shown in Table 1 of this report.

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NOTICE

A supplemental table is included at the end of this report that shows the distribution of inventory accounting methods used for reporting in this survey. A description of the survey used to collect this information is provided in the text preceeding the table.

SCHEDULED RELEASE DATES

The figures on the durable goods industries in this report supersede those issued earlier in the advance report on durable goods. The present report is based on more complete reporting, but the esimates are also considered preliminary. Final figures will appear as historical data in the report to be published for next month. The advance report on durable goods for January is scheduled for release on February 22, 1978 and the full report is scheduled for release on March 3, 1978.

Address inquiries concerning these figures to U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Industry Division, Washington, D.C. 20233, or call William Menth, (301) 763-2502.

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Table I.--VALUE OF MANUFACTURERS' SHIPMENTS, INVENTORIES, AND ORDERS, BY INDUSTRY GROUP

(Millions of dollars)

Industry group	Shipments						Total inventories					
	Seasonally adjusted			Without seasonal adjustment[1]			Seasonally adjusted			Without seasonal adjustment[1]		
	Dec. 1977[p]	Nov. 1977[r]	Oct. 1977	Dec. 1977[p]	Nov. 1977[r]	Annual total 1977	Dec. 1977[p]	Nov. 1977[r]	Oct. 1977	Dec. 1977[p]	Nov. 1977[r]	Oct. 1977
All manufacturing industries:												
Total	116,184	113,240	113,119	110,060	113,484	1,326,715	177,352	177,162	176,789	178,025	176,493	175,392
Total, excluding transportation	101,990	99,724	99,295	97,030	99,229	1,163,462	156,851	156,775	156,663	157,388	155,862	155,016
Total for industries with unfilled orders	61,135	58,874	58,576	58,237	59,073	684,410	118,327	118,175	117,453	118,035	117,110	116,279
Durable goods industries, total	61,650	59,154	59,262	57,743	59,266	692,313	112,845	112,548	111,904	112,602	111,560	110,736
Durable goods with unfilled orders	48,911	46,928	46,721	46,489	46,802	543,895	103,574	103,457	102,844	103,447	102,738	101,952
Stone, clay, and glass products	3,166	2,975	2,882	2,716	2,982	35,108	4,479	4,562	4,415	4,395	4,354	4,238
Primary metals, total	8,630	8,323	8,246	7,984	8,094	98,412	17,531	17,581	17,784	17,682	17,394	17,405
Blast furnaces, steel mills	4,310	4,296	4,243	4,039	4,102	49,952	9,933	10,100	10,355	10,260	10,100	10,158
Nonferrous and other primary metals	3,316	3,052	3,049	3,070	3,043	37,508	6,497	6,392	6,336	6,341	6,258	6,210
Fabricated metal products total	7,666	7,491	7,601	7,185	7,416	88,165	14,051	13,966	13,893	13,803	13,681	13,605
Metal cans, barrels, and drums	544	571	715	458	497	7,718	1,265	1,251	1,226	1,141	1,132	1,112
Machinery, except electrical, total	11,091	10,571	10,608	10,979	10,201	121,696	25,877	25,734	25,457	25,879	25,504	25,087
Engines and turbines	923	989	1,014	1,071	931	10,944	2,126	2,094	2,093	2,136	2,126	2,115
Farm machinery and equipment	914	819	837	720	676	10,455	2,453	2,486	2,440	2,438	2,377	2,269
Construction, mining, and material handling equipment	2,191	2,103	1,996	1,943	1,967	22,529	5,770	5,571	5,538	5,805	5,460	5,389
Metalworking machinery	645	646	602	677	604	7,084	1,656	1,651	1,630	1,641	1,663	1,638
General industrial machinery	1,018	955	911	1,026	919	10,870	2,851	2,795	2,764	2,791	2,745	2,704
Electrical machinery, total	7,376	7,228	7,055	7,232	7,364	82,188	15,597	15,523	15,472	15,456	15,376	15,369
Electrical transmission and distribution equipment and industrial apparatus	1,375	1,392	1,398	1,366	1,392	16,018	3,199	3,125	3,061	3,197	3,116	3,058
Household appliances	1,018	987	974	931	938	11,077	1,692	1,646	1,686	1,693	1,600	1,630
Radio and TV	575	568	533	599	671	5,999	829	867	868	794	844	875
Communication equipment	1,832	1,934	1,840	1,907	1,912	21,632	5,078	4,988	4,958	5,052	4,983	4,953
Transportation equipment, total	14,194	13,516	13,824	13,030	14,255	163,253	20,501	20,387	20,126	20,637	20,631	20,376
Motor vehicles and parts	9,739	9,292	9,374	8,756	10,079	113,000	7,230	7,339	7,083	7,317	7,456	7,288
Aircraft, missiles, and parts	2,728	2,609	2,891	2,806	2,703	32,423	10,201	10,096	10,025	10,189	10,162	10,083
Shipbuilding and military tank vehicles	664	675	638	666	628	7,385	1,402	1,367	1,394	1,466	1,426	1,411
Instruments and related products, total	2,526	2,351	2,356	2,527	2,442	27,975	4,947	5,008	5,001	4,909	4,955	4,962
Scientific and engineering	1,451	1,441	1,445	1,425	1,439	16,601	3,148	3,178	3,183	3,189	3,159	3,152
Photographic goods	890	750	742	929	829	9,196	1,334	1,357	1,349	1,267	1,329	1,344
All other durable goods industries	7,001	6,699	6,690	6,090	6,512	75,516	9,862	9,787	9,756	9,841	9,665	9,694
Nondurable goods industries, total	54,534	54,086	53,857	52,317	54,218	634,402	64,507	64,614	64,885	65,423	64,933	64,656
Nondurable goods with unfilled orders	12,224	11,946	11,855	11,748	12,271	140,515	14,753	14,718	14,609	14,588	14,372	14,327
Food and kindred products, total	16,137	15,827	15,804	16,144	16,097	186,974	15,855	16,114	16,667	16,597	17,031	17,086
Meat products	4,068	3,991	3,990	4,101	4,023	46 972	1,228	1,289	1,304	1,212	1,328	1,279
Fats and oils	1,628	1,490	1,581	1,605	1,545	18,337	1,445	1,422	1,704	1,656	1,673	1,568
Tobacco products	727	746	697	725	757	8,558	3,574	3,666	3,646	3,817	3,674	3,602
Textile mill products	3,794	3,701	3,607	3,566	3,769	42,385	5,494	5,400	5,410	5,349	5,250	5,248
Paper and allied products, total	4,763	4,495	4,453	4,443	4,481	54,368	5,554	5,699	5,675	5,600	5,645	5,606
Pulp, paper, etc.	2,113	1,956	1,903	1,964	1,957	23,835	2,117	2,170	2,178	2,126	2,139	2,142
Paperboard containers	991	1,008	1,020	932	1,008	12,361	1,412	1,443	1,474	1,409	1,446	1,465
All other paper containers	1,659	1,531	1,530	1,547	1,516	18,172	2,025	2,086	2,023	2,065	2,060	1,999
Chemicals and allied products, total	9,356	9,648	9,297	8,625	9,009	112,058	14,305	14,265	14,177	14,527	14,129	13,894
Industrial chemcials, except pigments	3,244	3,351	3,184	3,079	3,043	37,899	4,155	4,129	4,082	4,221	4,105	4,033
Drugs, soap, and toiletries	2,181	2,327	2,217	2,061	2,313	27,061	4,227	4,221	4,209	4,214	4,129	4,108
Petroleum and coal products	8,370	8,175	8,397	8,365	8,172	96,550	6,095	6,004	5,855	6,089	6,114	5,996
Rubber and plastics products, n.e.c.	3,192	3,188	3,162	2,918	3,135	37,116	4,186	4,137	4,171	4,235	4,070	4,097
All other nondurable goods industries	8,195	8,306	8,440	7,531	8,798	96,393	9,444	9,329	9,284	9,209	9,020	9,127

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1.--VALUE OF MANUFACTURERS' SHIPMENTS, INVENTORIES, AND ORDERS, BY INDUSTRY GROUP--Continued

(Millions of dollars)

Industry group	New orders						Unfilled orders					
	Seasonally adjusted			Without seasonal adjustment[1]			Seasonally adjusted			Without seasonal adjustment[1]		
	Dec. 1977[p]	Nov. 1977[r]	Oct. 1977	Dec. 1977[p]	Nov. 1977[r]	Annual total 1977	Dec. 1977[p]	Nov. 1977[r]	Oct. 1977	Dec. 1977[p]	Nov. 1977[r]	Oct. 1977
All manufacturing industries:												
Total	120,765	116,068	116,543	113,633	115,378	1,345,352	193,997	189,416	186,590	192,850	189,282	187,386
Total, excluding transportation	103,528	101,655	100,402	98,075	100,498	1,174,470	133,628	132,089	130,159	132,234	131,194	129,923
Total for industries with unfilled orders	65,716	61,702	62,000	61,810	60,967	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Durable goods industries, total	66,028	61,984	62,503	61,216	61,156	710,225	185,128	180,750	177,923	184,311	180,840	178,950
Durable goods with unfilled orders	53,289	49,758	49,962	49,962	48,692	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Primary metals, total	8,837	8,901	8,094	8,435	8,688	100,897	18,518	18,312	17,733	18,224	17,772	17,179
Blast furnaces, steel mills	4,175	4,747	4,140	4,093	4,603	51,656	11,702	11,837	11,385	11,667	11,612	11,112
Nonferrous and other primary metal products	3,648	3,155	3,010	3,454	3,104	38,028	5,525	5,193	5,090	5,254	4,871	4,810
Fabricated metal products	7,743	8,051	7,759	7,177	7,657	88,713	23,792	23,711	23,152	23,635	23,643	23,403
Machinery, except electrical, total	11,560	10,717	11,162	11,288	10,429	124,944	47,076	46,605	46,462	46,910	46,602	46,373
Engines and turbines	987	812	1,281	1,418	801	3,452	16,775	16,710	16,888	16,836	16,490	16,620
Construction, mining, and material handling equipment	2,344	2,239	2,110	2,028	2,102	22,976	6,845	6,692	6,557	6,784	6,699	6,563
Metalworking machinery	733	731	673	713	666	7,713	3,545	3,457	3,372	3,520	3,485	3,423
General industrial machinery	1,168	858	838	1,103	874	11,163	6,693	6,543	6,640	6,686	6,608	6,653
Electrical machinery, total	7,690	7,762	7,112	7,379	7,546	84,622	25,588	25,276	24,740	25,514	25,366	25,183
Electrical transmission and distribution equipment and industrial apparatus	1,391	1,452	1,421	1,352	1,409	6,095	5,974	5,959	5,899	5,937	5,950	5,932
Household appliances	1,031	1,014	962	948	906	11,133	354	341	314	317	300	332
Radio and TV	536	557	587	570	586	5,957	504	543	554	484	513	598
Communication equipment	2,181	2,277	1,822	2,110	2,145	23,285	12,209	11,861	11,516	12,295	12,093	11,860
Transportation equipment, total	17,237	14,413	16,141	15,558	14,880	17,0882	60,369	57,327	56,431	60,616	58,088	57,463
Aircraft, missiles, and parts	5,528	3,284	4,251	5,081	3,070	39,380	41,672	38,872	38,199	41,972	39,697	39,331
Shipbuilding and military tank vehicles	504	934	1,485	403	922	6,473	9,279	9,440	9,179	9,051	9,315	9,019
All other durable goods industries	12,961	12,140	12,235	11,379	11,956	140,167	9,785	9,519	9,405	9,412	9,369	9,349
Nondurable goods industries, total	54,737	54,084	54,040	52,417	54,222	635,127	8,869	8,666	8,667	8,539	8,442	8,436
Industries with unfilled orders	12,427	11,944	12,038	11,848	12,275	141,240	8,869	8,666	8,667	8,539	8,442	8,436
Industries without unfilled orders	42,310	42,140	42,002	40,569	41,947	493,887	-	-	-	-	-	-

- Represents zero. [p]Preliminary. [r]Revised.
[1]Adjusted for trading-day and calendar-month variations.

Table 2.--VALUE OF MANUFACTURERS' SHIPMENTS, INVENTORIES, AND ORDERS, FOR MARKET CATEGORIES AND SUPPLEMENTARY SERIES

(Millions of dollars)

Industry group	Seasonally adjusted			Without seasonal adjustment[1]			Seasonally adjusted			Without seasonal adjustment		
	Dec. 1977p	Nov. 1977r	Oct. 1977	Dec. 1977p	Nov. 1977r	Annual total 1977	Dec. 1977p	Nov. 1977r	Oct. 1977	Dec. 1977p	Nov. 1977r	Oct. 1977
	Shipments						Total inventories					
All manufacturing industries, total..	116,184	113,240	113,119	110,060	113,484	1,326,715	177,352	177,162	176,789	178,025	176,493	175,392
Durable goods industries, total.....	61,650	59,154	59,262	57,743	59,266	692,313	112,845	112,548	111,904	112,602	111,560	110,736
Nondurable goods industries, total.....	54,534	54,086	53,857	52,317	54,218	634,402	64,507	64,614	64,885	65,423	64,933	64,656
Industry groups arranged by market categories:												
Home goods and apparel.....	9,386	9,279	9,232	8,207	9,576	104,778	14,452	14,479	14,566	14,207	14,109	14,299
Consumer staples.....	19,765	19,902	19,555	19,673	20,299	232,483	24,395	24,700	24,914	25,081	25,201	25,292
Equipment and defense products, except automotive.....	16,258	15,529	15,731	16,252	15,136	180,046	41,761	41,536	41,139	41,667	41,356	40,746
Automotive equipment.....	11,788	11,290	11,305	10,404	11,928	135,362	9,520	9,523	9,315	9,581	9,583	9,472
Construction materials, supplies, and intermediate products.....	10,667	10,112	10,193	9,564	9,914	116,950	14,952	14,951	14,861	14,825	14,634	14,592
Other materials and supplies and intermediate products.....	48,320	47,128	47,103	45,960	46,631	557,096	72,272	71,973	71,994	72,664	71,610	70,991
Supplementary series:[2]												
Household durable goods industries.....	4,024	3,952	3,850	3,718	4,037	43,520	7,416	7,445	7,488	7,347	7,283	7,357
Capital goods industries.....	18,616	17,870	17,975	18,673	17,711	206,387	46,589	46,092	45,730	46,514	46,030	45,514
Nondefense.....	15,907	15,224	15,432	15,923	15,104	175,385	39,942	39,461	39,134	39,837	39,344	38,900
Defense.....	2,709	2,646	2,543	2,750	2,607	31,002	6,647	6,631	6,596	6,677	6,686	6,614
	New orders						Unfilled orders					
All manufacturing industries, total..	120,765	116,068	116,543	113,633	115,378	1,345,352	193,997	189,416	186,590	192,850	189,282	187,386
Durable goods industries, total.....	66,028	61,984	62,503	61,216	61,156	710,225	185,128	180,750	177,923	184,311	180,840	178,950
Nondurable goods industries, total.....	54,737	54,084	54,040	52,417	54,222	635,127	8,869	8,666	8,667	8,539	8,442	8,436
Industry groups arranged by market categories:												
Home goods and apparel.....	9,407	9,223	9,481	8,071	9,366	105,475	4,080	4,075	4,147	3,855	4,002	4,211
Consumer staples.....	19,750	19,885	19,536	19,665	20,299	232,513						
Equipment and defense products, except automotive.....	18,700	17,309	17,899	18,117	16,314	188,441	110,468	107,889	106,247	110,669	108,554	107,479
Automotive equipment.....	11,926	11,152	11,433	10,657	11,827	136,599						
Construction materials, supplies, and intermediate products.....	10,858	10,732	10,300	9,677	10,304	117,905	18,986	18,794	18,175	18,818	18,706	18,315
Other materials and supplies and intermediate products.....	50,124	47,767	47,894	47,446	47,268	564,419	60,463	58,658	58,021	59,508	58,020	57,381
Supplementary series:[2]												
Household durable goods industries.....	4,085	3,944	4,066	3,641	3,864	44,222	3,404	3,344	3,352	3,179	3,257	3,430
Capital goods industries.....	22,208	19,453	20,770	21,322	18,824	217,297	120,903	117,310	115,730	120,807	118,158	117,045
Nondefense.....	17,329	15,883	16,502	16,898	15,679	183,842	86,314	84,892	84,236	86,165	85,188	84,612
Defense.....	4,879	3,570	4,268	4,424	3,145	33,455	34,589	32,418	31,494	34,642	32,970	32,433

-During 1968 manufacturers in ordnance, communications, aircraft and aircraft parts, and shipbuilding industries began to provide aggregate figures on shipments, orders, and total inventories of work performed for the Department of Defense. The results of these reports are included in the defense series. pPreliminary. rRevised. [1]Shipments and new orders adjusted for trading-day and calendar-month variations; unfilled orders and inventories as of end of month. [2]The supplementary series are regroupings of the separate industry categories as follows:

Household durable goods industries - Household furniture; kitchen articles and pottery; cutlery, handtools, and hardware; household appliances; ophthalmic goods, watches, and clocks, watchcases; and miscellaneous personal goods.

Capital goods industries - The capital goods industries series is comparable to the previous Producers' Capital Goods and the Defense Products (old series) categories.

Nondefense industries - Machinery, except electrical (excluding farm machinery and equipment and machine shops), electrical machinery (excluding household appliances and electronic components), railroad equipment and the nondefense portions of shipbuilding and military tank vehicles, communication equipment, aircraft, aircraft parts and ordnance.

Defense products (new series) - Based on separate reports on defense work filed by large defense contractors in the following industries: ordnance, communications, complete aircraft, aircraft parts, and shipbuilding and military tank vehicles. The data are comparable to those published annually in the MA-175, Shipments of Defense-Oriented Industries, for the specified industries.

Table 3.--MANUFACTURERS' SHIPMENTS, INVENTORIES, AND ORDERS MONTH-TO-MONTH AND LONG TERM PERCENT CHANGES

(Based on seasonally adjusted data)

Item and industry group	Month-to-month			Average monthly rates of change				Average, 1972-1976	
				3 months			12 months		
	Nov.-Dec. 1977	Oct.-Nov. 1977	Sept.-Oct. 1977	Sept.-Dec. 1977	June-Sept. 1977	March-June 1977	Dec. 1976-Dec. 1977	Average rise	Average decline
Shipments:									
All manufacturing industries.....	+2.6	+0.1	+1.1	+1.3	+0.4	-0.2	+0.9	+1.5	-1.1
Durable goods industries, total.....	+4.2	-0.2	+1.1	+1.7	+0.6	-0.7	+1.0	+1.8	-1.5
Nondurable goods industries, total.....	+0.8	+0.4	+1.0	+0.7	+0.1	+0.4	+0.9	+1.6	-1.1
Total inventories:									
All manufacturing industries.....	+0.1	+0.2	+0.4	+0.2	+0.4	+0.9	+0.5	+1.0	-0.4
New orders:									
All manufacturing industries.....	+4.0	-0.4	+3.6	+2.4	+0.3	-0.1	+1.1	+1.9	-1.7
Durable goods industries, total.....	+6.5	-0.8	+5.9	+3.9	+0.4	-0.4	+1.3	+3.1	-2.1
Nondurable goods industries, total.....	+1.2	+0.1	+1.2	+0.8	+0.1	+0.3	+0.8	+1.8	-1.1
Unfilled orders:									
Durable goods industries, total.....	+2.4	+1.6	+1.9	+2.0	-0.0	+1.0	+0.9	+1.6	-0.9

Table 4.--VALUE OF MANUFACTURERS' INVENTORIES, BY STAGE OF FABRICATION, BY INDUSTRY GROUP

(Millions of dollars)

Industry group	Seasonally adjusted			Without seasonal adjustment			Seasonally adjusted			Without seasonal adjustment		
	Dec. 1977[p]	Nov. 1977[r]	Oct. 1977	Dec. 1977[p]	Nov. 1977[r]	Oct. 1977	Dec. 1977[p]	Nov. 1977[r]	Oct. 1977	Dec. 1977[p]	Nov. 1977[r]	Oct. 1977
	Total						Materials and supplies					
All manufacturing industries, total..	177,352	177,162	176,789	178,025	176,493	175,392	63,279	63,500	64,090	64,397	63,456	64,011
Durable goods industries, total.....	112,845	112,548	111,904	112,602	111,560	110,736	36,910	37,147	37,394	37,524	37,162	37,468
Stone, clay, and glass products.....	4,479	4,562	4,415	4,395	4,354	4,238	1,579	1,581	1,575	1,587	1,560	1,554
Primary metals.....	17,531	17,581	17,784	17,682	17,394	17,405	8,083	8,035	8,250	8,299	8,179	8,228
Machinery (electrical and nonelectrical).	41,474	41,257	40,929	41,335	40,880	40,456	11,458	11,518	11,479	11,507	11,287	11,343
Tansportation equipment.....	20,501	20,387	20,126	20,637	20,631	20,376	5,890	5,921	6,001	6,089	6,045	6,171
All other durable goods industries.....	28,860	28,761	28,650	28,553	28,301	28,261	9,900	10,092	10,089	10,042	10,091	10,172
Nondurable goods industries, total.....	64,507	64,614	64,885	65,423	64,933	64,656	26,369	26,353	26,696	26,873	26,294	26,543
Chemicals and allied products.....	14,305	14,265	14,177	14,527	14,129	13,894	5,772	5,551	5,529	5,764	5,498	5,510
Petroleum and coal products.....	6,095	6,004	5,855	6,089	6,114	5,996	2,082	2,055	2,048	2,021	2,013	2,034
Rubber and plastics products, n.e.c.....	4,186	4,137	4,171	4,235	4,070	4,097	1,489	1,438	1,478	1,507	1,415	1,454
All other nondurable goods industries....	39,921	40,208	40,682	40,572	40,620	40,669	17,026	17,309	17,641	17,581	17,368	17,545
	Work in process						Finished goods					
All manufacturing industries, total..	55,247	54,699	54,171	54,747	54,560	54,025	58,826	58,963	58,528	58,881	58,477	57,356
Durable goods industries, total.....	45,352	44,938	44,430	44,935	44,787	44,280	30,583	30,463	30,080	30,143	29,611	28,988
Stone, clay, and glass products.....	753	751	725	708	689	671	2,147	2,230	2,115	2,100	2,105	2,013
Primary metals.....	5,782	5,846	5,842	5,693	5,630	5,664	3,666	3,700	3,692	3,690	3,585	3,513
Machinery (electrical and nonelectrical).	18,073	17,910	17,664	17,980	17,924	17,657	11,943	11,829	11,786	11,848	11,669	11,456
Transportation equipment.....	11,653	11,556	11,383	11,615	11,694	11,501	2,958	2,910	2,742	2,933	2,892	2,704
All other durable goods industries.....	9,091	8,875	8,816	8,939	8,850	8,787	9,869	9,794	9,745	9,572	9,360	9,302
Nondurable goods industries, total.....	9,895	9,761	9,741	9,812	9,773	9,745	28,243	28,500	28,448	28,738	28,866	28,368
Chemicals and allied products.....	2,425	2,460	2,470	2,414	2,424	2,412	6,108	6,254	6,178	6,349	6,207	5,972
Petroleum and coal products.....	1,273	1,230	1,181	1,264	1,226	1,204	2,740	2,719	2,626	2,804	2,875	2,758
Rubber and plastics products, n.e.c.....	758	750	755	764	737	737	1,939	1,949	1,938	1,964	1,918	1,906
All other nondurable goods industries....	5,439	5,321	5,335	5,370	5,386	5,392	17,456	17,578	17,706	17,621	17,866	17,732

[p]Preliminary.
[r]Revised.

Table 5.--RATIO OF MANUFACTURERS' INVENTORIES TO SHIPMENTS AND UNFILLED ORDERS TO SHIPMENTS, BY INDUSTRY GROUP

(Based on seasonally adjusted data)

Industry group	Inventories - shipments ratio				Unfilled orders - shipments ratio[1] (months' backlog)			
	Dec. 1977[p]	Nov. 1977[r]	Oct. 1977	Sept. 1977	Dec. 1977[p]	Nov. 1977[r]	Oct. 1977	Sept. 1977
All manufacturing industries, total	1.53	1.56	1.56	1.57	3.17	3.22	3.19	3.15
Durable goods industries, total	1.83	1.90	1.89	1.91	3.78	3.85	3.81	3.78
Stone, clay, and glass products	1.41	1.53	1.53	1.47	0.95	0.97	0.97	0.92
Primary metals	2.03	2.11	2.16	2.09	2.15	2.20	2.15	2.12
Fabricated metals	1.83	1.86	1.83	1.87	3.34	3.43	3.36	3.41
Machinery, except electrical	2.33	2.43	2.40	2.44	4.63	4.78	4.76	4.82
Electrical machinery	2.11	2.15	2.19	2.23	3.47	3.50	3.51	3.55
Transportation equipment	1.44	1.51	1.46	1.51	8.47	8.63	8.24	8.07
Instruments and related products	1.96	2.13	2.12	2.13	1.64	1.74	1.71	1.71
Nondurable goods industries, total	1.18	1.19	1.20	1.21	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.71
Food and kindred products	0.98	1.02	1.05	1.07	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Tobacco products	4.92	4.91	5.23	5.08	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Textile mill products	1.45	1.46	1.50	1.51	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Paper and allied products	1.17	1.27	1.27	1.27	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Chemicals and allied products	1.53	1.48	1.52	1.46	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Petroleum and coal products	0.73	0.73	0.70	0.72	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Rubber and plastics products, n.e.c.	1.31	1.30	1.32	1.33	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)

(NA) Not available. [p]Preliminary. [r]Revised. (X) Not applicable.

[1]Excludes the following industries with no unfilled orders: Wood and lumber products; glass containers; metal cans, barrels and drums; motor vehicle assembly operations; foods and related products; tobacco; apparel and related products; chemicals; petroleum and coal products; and rubber and plastics products, n.e.c.

1976 INVENTORY VALUATION SUPPLEMENT

The Bureau of the Census has completed the 1976 Inventory Valuation survey. The purpose of this supplemental survey is to determine the percentage distribution of accounting methods used to value the inventories reported in the monthly Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders Survey. The 1976 survey was identical to the survey conducted at the end of 1975 and published in the May 1977 release; however, in the tables below, two changes have been introduced. First, the industry detail has been expanded from the 2-digit Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) presentation used for the 1975 tables. Second, the 1972 SIC was used as a basis for tabulating the 1976 results and for retabulating the 1975 survey results. When the 1975 data were initially tabulated, the 1967 SIC was used. These 1967 SIC data are again presented in the tables below, revised to reflect corrected reports received from individual respondents.

In the survey supplement, companies were asked to report the percentage of the reported December 1976 inventories valued by the following accounting methods:

1. first-in, first-out (FIFO)
2. last-in, first-out (LIFO)
3. average cost
4. specific or actual cost
5. standard cost
6. other cost methods
7. market valuation methods always used
8. market valuation used because market value was lower than cost
9. other market methods

The last four categories were collected separately but combined for publication purposes. Where individual categories in this group were reported by significant numbers of respondents, the figures are shown in the footnotes to the table.

The percentage distribution estimates in the tables below were developed by allocating the reported December 1976 total inventory figure for individual respondents to the nine categories according to the percentage distribution reported in the supplemental survey. The allocated values were then aggregated to the 79 industry categories and the percentage distribution of the aggregates computed. These industry totals were similarly aggregated to the totals shown in the tables below.

These percentage distribution estimates may differ from the distribution of valuation methods used for public financial reporting or income tax purposes. This is because the reported monthly inventory values are generally based on internal accounting records. For example, a company may use LIFO for external reporting purposes and FIFO for internal accounting purposes and for reporting in this survey. In such instances, respondents were specifically instructed to report the valuation method used for the reported figure, in this example, FIFO. In addition, these percentages are believed to differ from the distribution of accounting methods used for inventories as reported in the Annual Survey of Manufactures (ASM), which is the benchmark on which these inventory aggregates are based. A similar inquiry was included as part of the ASM for 1975 and 1976, and a similar set of tables for that survey are forthcoming.

Table A-1.--PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF INVENTORY VALUATION METHOD USED IN THE MANUFACTURERS' SHIPMENTS, INVENTORIES, AND ORDERS SURVEY, BY INDUSTRY GROUP (1972 SIC): 1976 AND 1975

Industry group (1972 SIC)	Method of inventory valuation											
	FIFO		LIFO		Average cost		Actual cost		Standard cost		Market and other	
	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975
All manufacturing industries, total	29	30	33	32	17	17	6	6	13	12	2	3
Durable goods industries, total	29	30	33	32	15	17	7	7	13	11	3	3
Stone, clay, and glass products	25	25	34	34	17	19	1	(X)	21	22	2	(X)
Primary metals, total	11	11	60	59	9	13	1	1	7	6	12	10
Blast furnaces, steel mills	3	4	61	57	9	15	1	(X)	7	7	19	17
Nonferrous and other primary metals	21	18	65	69	7	8	(X)	-	6	5	1	(X)
Fabricated metal products, total	34	34	35	38	7	6	7	8	16	13	1	1
Metal cans, barrels, and drums	20	23	62	62	3	1	(X)	-	15	14	-	-
Machinery, except electrical, total	27	30	36	34	16	19	3	3	19	14	(X)	(X)
Engines and turbines	16	19	72	69	3	3	(X)	(X)	9	8	(X)	1
Farm machinery and equipment	22	19	30	33	33	36	(X)	(X)	14	12	(X)	(X)
Construction, mining, and material handling equipment	39	35	36	36	10	18	1	1	14	9	(X)	1
Metalworking machinery	27	34	29	27	8	4	9	11	26	21	1	3
General industrial machinery	35	30	27	28	6	4	6	6	26	32	(X)	-
Electrical machinery, total	35	41	34	34	6	5	6	8	17	11	1	1
Electrical transmission and distribution equipment and industrial apparatus	22	27	53	55	1	(X)	2	3	22	15	(X)	(X)
Household appliances	25	29	55	61	5	(X)	2	(X)	13	10	(X)	(X)
Radio and TV	45	40	42	44	(X)	(X)	-	-	6	9	7	7
Communication equipment	55	53	16	15	11	11	13	16	5	5	2	(X)
Transportation equipment, total	32	30	6	6	32	36	22	20	7	7	1	1
Motor vehicles and parts	66	70	3	3	20	20	7	5	3	2	(X)	(X)
Aircraft, missiles, and parts	4	4	7	6	45	50	33	29	10	10	1	1
Shipbuilding and military tank vehicles	10	7	11	12	39	33	35	41	(X)	3	5	4
Instruments and related products, total	40	39	24	24	6	6	3	5	25	25	(X)	1
Scientific and engineering	34	33	27	26	5	1	1	7	33	32	(X)	1
Photographic goods	44	45	22	22	15	18	6	2	13	12	(X)	1
All other durable goods industries	35	37	30	28	21	21	3	3	8	9	3	2
Nondurable goods industries, total	30	31	33	32	19	17	3	4	12	13	3	3
Food and kindred products, total	34	36	21	19	26	24	4	8	5	5	10	10
Meat products	55	65	10	5	2	2	4	11	9	6	20	12
Fats and oils	12	15	18	13	23	22	1	1	2	2	44	48
Tobacco products	3	5	43	44	47	44	2	6	3	2	2	-
Textile mill products	31	30	30	29	15	13	2	3	20	24	2	2
Paper and allied products, total	33	34	32	26	16	22	4	3	15	15	(X)	(X)
Pulp, paper, etc	14	19	33	27	26	31	6	4	20	18	1	(X)
Paperboard containers	34	33	38	28	15	26	2	3	11	10	(X)	(X)
All other paper products	54	52	26	22	4	8	3	2	12	15	1	1
Chemicals and allied products, total	30	28	43	40	12	8	1	(X)	13	23	1	1
Industrial chemicals, except pigments	9	5	68	73	13	6	(X)	(X)	9	14	1	1
Drugs, soap, and toiletries	51	52	19	20	9	11	3	(X)	18	17	(X)	(X)
Petroleum and coal products	8	8	62	61	24	27	2	1	3	3	1	(X)
Rubber and plastics products	28	29	45	49	11	10	2	5	14	7	(X)	(X)
All other nondurable goods industries	54	51	26	17	4	6	3	4	12	20	1	2

- Represents zero.
(X) Represents less than one half of one percent.

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Table A-2.--PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF INVENTORY VALUATION METHODS USED IN THE MANUFACTUR AND ORDERS SURVEY, BY INDUSTRY GROUP (1967 SIC): 1975

Industry group (1967 SIC)	Method of inventory valuation					
	FIFO	LIFO	Average cost	Actual cost	Standard cost	Market and other
All manufacturing industries, total	30	32	17	6	12	3
Durable goods industries, total	30	32	17	7	12	2
Stone, clay, and glass products	25	33	20	-	22	-
Primary metals, total	10	60	13	1	6	10
Blast furnaces, steel mills	4	57	15	-	7	17
Nonferrous metals	18	69	8	-	5	-
All other primary metals	20	43	23	5	8	1
Fabricated metal products, total	36	37	4	8	14	1
Metal cans, barrels, and drums	23	62	1	-	14	-
Machinery, except electrical, total	30	34	18	3	14	1
Engines and turbines	19	69	3	-	8	1
Farm machinery and equipment	26	30	33	-	11	-
Construction, mining, and material handling equipment	33	37	19	1	9	1
Metalworking machinery	34	27	4	11	21	3
General industrial machinery	30	28	4	6	32	-
Electrical machinery, total	39	34	4	8	14	1
Electrical transmission and distribution equipment and industrial apparatus	18	51	-	3	28	-
Household appliances	29	60	(X)	(X)	10	-
Radio and TV	40	45	-	-	9	6
Communication equipment	53	15	11	16	5	-
Transportation equipment, total	30	7	36	19	7	1
Motor vehicles and parts	72	3	21	2	2	-
Aircraft, missiles, and parts	4	6	50	29	10	1
Shipbuilding and railroad equipment	29	10	19	29	6	7
Instruments and related products, total	44	23	7	6	19	1
Scientific and engineering	40	25	1	8	25	1
All other instruments and related products	45	22	18	2	12	1
All other durable goods industries	35	29	22	3	9	2
Nondurable goods industries, total	31	32	17	4	13	3
Food and kindred products, total	36	18	24	8	5	9
Meat products	64	5	2	11	6	12
Fats and oils	14	13	22	1	2	48
Tobacco products	5	44	44	6	1	-
Textile mill products	30	29	13	3	23	2
Paper and allied products, total	34	29	22	3	12	-
Pulp, paper, etc	19	35	31	4	11	-
Paperboard containers	33	28	26	3	10	-
All other paper products	52	22	8	2	15	1
Chemicals and allied products, total	28	41	8	1	22	-
Industrial chemicals, except pigments	5	72	7	1	14	1
Drugs, soap, and toiletries	52	20	11	-	17	-
Petroleum and coal products	8	61	27	1	3	-
Rubber and plastics products, n.e.c	28	50	10	5	7	-
All other nondurable goods industries	51	17	6	4	20	2

- Represents zero. N.e.c. Not elsewhere classified. (X) Less than one half of one percent.